

Veterans serving veterans: 84 years and counting

By Fred Wildi

American Legion Stuttgart Post 6

The world's largest veterans' organization will celebrate its 84th birthday March 15 to 17.

The American Legion was born over three days at a caucus of the American Expeditionary Force in Paris in 1919. The caucus was the result of a proposal by Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., whose unwavering service during this vital time won him the title, "Father of the American Legion."

The 66th U.S. Congress overwhelmingly endorsed "An Act to Incorporate The American Legion," which became Public Law 47 with President Woodrow Wilson's signature Sept. 16, 1919.

Eligibility

The Legion's charter limited membership to honorably discharged veterans with service between April 6, 1917, and Nov. 11, 1918. Subsequent amendments have been made to establish the following eligibility dates for membership:

- World War II (Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946)
- Korean War (June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955)
- Vietnam War (Dec. 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975)
- Granada and Lebanon (Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984)
- Panama (Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990)
- Persian Gulf (Aug. 2, 1990 to present)

Organization

The American Legion is organized into 55 departments, with one in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

The American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 was originally located in Ludwigsburg and chartered as Ludwigsburg Post 6. It was re-chartered as a Baden-Württemberg Post Feb. 20, 1975.

Then on May 9, 1979, it was again re-chartered, this



Courtney Allen, a senior at Patch High School, has won both the American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 Oratorical Contest and the Legion's Department of France competition. Allen will compete for an \$18,000 scholarship in the Legion's national competition in Indianapolis April 12 and 13.

time as Stuttgart Post 6.

The post is comprised of members from the 6th Area Support Group community in Germany – and even members in the United States who maintain their affiliation with the local post. Stuttgart Post 6's current home is in the Back Lot Club on Patch Barracks.

Service

The Legion's greatest single legislative achievement was the enactment of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the GI Bill of Rights.

Not only is the American Legion universally recognized as the originator of this complex and multi-dimensional bill, but also as the force which overcame major political opposition by massing public opinion in favor of the measure.

In 2002, American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 members volunteered 2,897 hours and traveled more than 17,000 miles to accomplish numerous post- and department-level activities.

The post also donated more than \$9,700 to the 6th ASG and other charitable organizations.

For more information about the American Legion, visit www.legion.org.

Local Beat

Upcoming closings, changes

■ **The Panzer Dining Facility** is open only at the following times: Mondays to Fridays, 7:30 to 9 a.m. (for breakfast) and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (for lunch).

■ **The Patch APO** no longer offers Saturday services.

■ **The Patch Skate Park** will be closed March 14 to 25 due to the Spring Bazaar.

■ **The 510th Personnel Services Battalion** office on Panzer Kaserne is closed the first Friday of every month from 1 to 5 p.m.

EFMP committee meets

The next Exceptional Family Member Program/Local Interagency Coordinating Council committee meeting is March 19, 10:30 a.m., in the Army Community Service office (Patch Barracks, building 2307).

The EFMP/LICC Committee helps coordinate medical, legal, social service assessment, education, housing and treatment services. Meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. For details call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

Eligibility for special allowance changes

As a result of recent changes made by Congress, junior enlisted families may now be eligible for the Armed Forces' Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance, which can provide non-taxable monthly payments of up to \$500.

For details call Army Community Service at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

Donations sought for Pfennig Bazaar

The sorting rooms on Patch and Kelly barracks are now open for Pfennig Bazaar donations. The German-American Women's Club is also looking for volunteers to help sort donated items. For details call Polly Haag (Patch) at 0711-674-2548 or Amy Ingold (Kelley) at 0711-719-4884.

OCSC Spring Bazaar approaches

The Stuttgart Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club annual Spring Bazaar is March 21 to 23 in the Patch Community Club, Fitness Center and Youth Services area. More than 70 vendors will attend the event, which is open to all U.S. identification cardholders.

Volunteers can shop the evening before the bazaar opens to the public and will be entered in a raffle for vendor prizes. Volunteers are needed March 21 to 23.

To volunteer call Laurie Menzel at 0711-440-8424 or e-mail lmenzel@att.net.

Kelley YS to 'lock in' youth

Kelley Youth Services is holding a Sleepover/Lock-in for 6th- to 12th-graders March 14 to 15. The event includes snacks, movies, games and a continental breakfast. The cost is \$15. For details call 421-2548/civ. 0711-729-2548.

RB YS hosts free parent/youth dinner

Robinson Barracks Youth Services is offering a free Parent and Youth Spaghetti Dinner March 13, 6 to 7 p.m. Other dishes will highlight St. Patrick's Day. Treat the family to a night out for dinner and challenge them to a game of pool or air hockey.

For details call 420-6016/civ. 0711-819-6016.

Comptroller society offers scholarships

The Heidelberg Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is offering scholarships for graduating high school seniors and ASMC members. Scholarships from \$250 to \$1,000 are available.

Additional information and application materials are available online at www.odcsrm.hqusaureur.army.mil/ASMC/scholarships.htm.

PCS/pre-separation briefing on Patch

Stuttgart's next permanent change of station/pre-separation briefing is March 19, 1 p.m., on Patch Barracks (building 2318, room 4). All service members and civilians departing within the next four to five months should attend.

For details call Cliff Heisler at 430-4064/civ. 0711-680-4064.

Child Find screenings on RB

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools will conduct a Child Find Screening March 21 in Robinson Barracks Elementary School.

Parents with concerns about their child's social, cognitive, physical, communication or adaptive skill development should call 420-6365/civ. 0711-819-6365 for an appointment.

Stuttgart stores change hours, move merchandise

The Defense Commissary Agency and Army and Air Force Exchange Service have announced the following changes in operating hours and merchandise locations for Stuttgart-area stores:

AAFES merchandise

■ **Linens:** A limited assortment is still available in the Patch PXtra (building 2339). A wider selection can be found in the Robinson Barracks CX.

■ **Sporting goods:** Limited selection in the RB CX. Larger assortment in Patch Sports Store (building 2333).

■ **Pet food, supplies and accessories:** Now located in Patch PXtra.

■ **Luggage:** Now located in Patch PXtra.



DeCA Commissary hours

Kelley Barracks

Mondays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed Saturdays and Sundays

Panzer Kaserne

Mondays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed Saturdays and Sundays

Patch Barracks

Tuesdays to Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Closed Mondays

For more information

AAFES: Gina Meeks (430-5601/civ. 0711-687-0100)

DeCA: Steve Peterson (430-8401/civ. 0711-680-8401;
e-mail steven.peterson@deca.mil)

The Stuttgart Entertainment Branch presents the European premiere of ...

As Bees in Honey Drown

A sexy, sophisticated comedy by Douglas Carter Beane

March 14, 15, 16

(All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.)

Tickets: Adults (\$12 / 14 euro); Students (\$10 / 12 euro)

For reservations call 421-2825/civ. 0711-729-2825 or visit www.kelleytheatre.de

Adult subject matter:
Recommended for mature
audiences due to sexual content
and strong language.

